

Crime Prevention – ALERT: Sliders Back in Action

By Alyska Malveaux



As warmer months approach, more and more people will be out and about enjoying beautiful Houston weather, including criminals! Last year we noticed a significant increase of cases involving, what has been popularized as, “**sliding**” and we are starting to see it again.

Occurring mostly at gas stations, **sliding** is a crime of opportunity. Criminals target cars left unlocked with valuables exposed in the front seat. The criminal scopes out the car as the car owner pumps gas. While the unsuspecting victim is at the fuel pump, the thief opens the opposite unlocked door, slides in below the view of the owner and steals valuables left on the seat.

Many people tend to leave their cars unlocked while pumping gas. Leaving vehicles unlocked with valuables exposed, especially women purses, gives criminals an opportunity to “**slide**”. It only takes a few seconds. It is easy to forget that things like this happen and it could easily happen to you. However, “**sliding**” can be prevented by taking a few simple steps of prevention.

Remember these important prevention steps:

Stay Alert. Pay attention to what’s going on around you and watch for suspicious activity.

Lock your car. All vehicles that fall prey to sliding were those left unlocked.

Hide your valuables. Items left out in the open make your car a target for theft.

Never leave your car running while unattended. Always shut your car off before leaving it unattended.

Take your keys and never leave a second set in your vehicle.

Remember, sliding theft occurs because it is easy; if you make it harder for thieves, you will typically not be a victim. In the event that you are a victim of sliding, do not touch anything in, on or around the car. As soon as possible, call the police to report the incident. If you see suspicious activity, call the police immediately.

Be Aware! Be Alert! Be Careful!

Constable May Walker
Harris County Precinct 7

5290 Griggs Road
Houston, Texas 77021

PH: 713.643.6118

FAX: 713.643.3428

DISPATCH: 713.643.6602

Website: www.hctx.net/conpct7